

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

REPORT ON THE SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO THE

NEW BUILDINGS AND HOSPITAL.

*At a Meeting of the General Council of the University of Glasgow, held on 27th April, 1870,—
a Report having been called for from the Committee on the Subscription for the erection of the University
New Buildings and Hospital,*

Mr. J. A. CAMPBELL, Convener of the Committee, said,—

I have the pleasure of reporting on behalf of the Committee on Subscriptions to the New Buildings. Since last meeting of Council subscriptions have been received to the amount of £6788, so that the total amount to this date is £129,667. I may say that the Committee, while able to report this amount, are hopeful that they will shortly receive considerable additions. Exertions have lately been made to bring the matter before the attention of the public both of Glasgow and of other places, and we expect that from the city and from towns in the neighbourhood there will soon be further contributions to the funds.

It may, perhaps, be proper on this occasion to glance back at the history of the subscription. I find that exactly ten years ago, to a day—on the 27th of April, 1860—this Council adopted a resolution requesting the attention of their Committee to the desirableness of having the University removed to some more suitable site. Six months afterwards, the Committee of Council brought up a report on the subject, strongly recommending that there should be new University Buildings in a better situation. At that time there was no apparent likelihood of the plan being speedily realized. I think it is well to remember that in this

matter we felt the want of the thing before we endeavoured to indulge ourselves in it. There is a good old rule, never to buy a thing till you have felt the want of it, and this Council declared that there was need for new University Buildings, before they had the least expectation of being able to obtain them.

The sale of the present site and buildings to the Glasgow Union Railway Company took place in the year 1864, and it was at the April meeting of 1865 that the Council appointed a Committee to co-operate with the Senate in promoting a subscription, so that in reality this movement on which we have to report again to-day has been in active existence for only five years. The amount which was thought to be requisite was stated at first at a much smaller figure than we have to state now. At that time there were no definite estimates before the University authorities. I daresay the Council may remember that from time to time there has been an alteration of the sum which we reported to be necessary, and always in the ascending scale. That, however, is not by any means an unusual fact in the history of such undertakings; and in this case we can say most confidently that the increase in the amount declared to be requisite has not been owing to any extravagance, nor to any mistake in the estimates, but has been caused by the fact that it has been resolved, for the accommodation of the classes, to provide larger premises in some departments than had been at first proposed. The Committees have thought it desirable to erect buildings that will not only meet the existing wants of the University, but also provide for the increase in the University requirements which we think it is no more than reasonable to look forward to.

It may, perhaps, be necessary to inform the Council of the amount which we are now enabled to state with some confidence to be required for the entire carrying out of the plans. The sum necessary for meeting the cost of the new site, for constructing the University Buildings, for removing from the old College, for laying out the grounds at Gilmorehill, and for other necessary expenses, is in all £339,890. The only item not included is the cost of the Common Hall. That Hall has not yet been contracted for. The foundations of it are laid, but the Hall itself is not included in the estimate just given. Then, for the University Hospital, which is an essential part of the plan, there is set aside £30,000,* so that the total amount required for what may be considered the more necessary parts of the scheme is £370,000. The Hall, although not absolutely essential, it would be extremely desirable to have, and the University buildings will not be complete without it. To erect that Hall with its adjuncts will cost, it is believed, about £57,000, so that, if you please, we will include this in stating the total amount required, bringing up the sum to £427,000.

Then, the means for meeting this expense are these—The price obtained for the old College and grounds, £100,000; the fabric fund, consisting of money received from a railway company some years ago, as compensation for the non-fulfilment of an arrangement to purchase the College, amounting, with accumulated interest, to £17,500; the Government grant, £120,000—in all £237,500—leaving to be raised by public subscription, £189,500, or, say, £190,000. I remember that one of the

* This sum has been set aside as representing the cost of Hospital accommodation in so far as merely required for the limited purposes of the University Medical School; but if the Hospital to be built is to be such as may be considered necessary for the wants of the population in the western and south-western parts of Glasgow, a much larger sum will be needed.

first subscriptions we received, and the largest from private contributors, was given with the remark that it was all very well to talk of £100,000, as we then did, but that the sum we should aim at was £200,000, and that the subscription then given was the proportion which these gentlemen considered they ought to give towards such an amount. It seems that these subscribers were not very far from the truth. Of the £189,500 required by subscription, we have received, as I have already reported, £129,667, so that in order to complete the whole scheme there yet remains to be subscribed £59,833, or, say, £60,000. In order, however, that the Council may not be deterred by this large sum, they must remember that £57,000 of it is required for the Common Hall, so that we are now within about £3000 of what is wanted for completing the more essential parts of the scheme.

Speaking of the progress made during the last five years, we must not forget that we have fallen upon very difficult times. I think that on nearly every occasion on which we have made a report to this Council, we have had to refer to the depressed state of trade as impeding our progress. It is thus all the more satisfactory that we have been able in the five years to so very nearly provide what is required for erecting the buildings most necessary for the University.

I may now be permitted, Mr. Principal, to remind the Council of the part they have themselves taken in this subscription. We have already noticed at these meetings that the Committees have looked for very cordial and general assistance from members of Council. In fact, it is difficult to say who ought to be more interested in this work. Now, we have not yet received nearly as much support from the members of Council as I think we were entitled to expect. We still have good expectations. We have often said—and I do not see why we should at all despair of realizing our expectation—that each member of Council should, on an average, over and above what he may give himself, be able to collect about £10 from private friends as a thank-offering for the good he himself received from the old College. If our 2300 members of Council would take hold of this idea and endeavour to carry it out, we should very soon be able to proceed with the erection of the Common Hall; but of our whole number, I regret to say that only a very small proportion have as yet reported assistance. 140 have themselves subscribed, but have not collected; 48 have intimated their inability either to subscribe or to collect. The members of Council who have already sent in collections number only 82. There are still 2091 collecting cards not returned, and no report upon them. I hope we shall soon have these sent in with well filled columns. The number of members of Council who have themselves subscribed or collected is 222, and the number of contributions through them is 295, and the amount of the contributions £5342. Of the 295—I read from an analysis which our secretary, Mr. Hill, has been kind enough to prepare—169 are from professional gentlemen, and 126 from non-professional. Of the professional, 113 are from ministers; 33 from medical men; 16 from writers; 3 from advocates; and 4 from schoolmasters. We hope, however, that it may soon be in the power of the Committee to make a very much better report of the assistance given by the members of Council.

I had hoped that the Chairman of the Building Committee would have been here to-day to make a report upon the state of the buildings; but I find he has been called to England on business. I think it

is scarcely necessary for me to say anything on this subject. The building now speaks for itself, and I know there are not two opinions as to its beauty and suitableness. It will be ready for the accommodation of the classes at the beginning of next session.

The REV. DR. SMITH moved that the report of the Subscription Committee now laid before the Council be received and adopted, and that the Committee be reappointed, under the convenership of Mr. Campbell. He had listened with the greatest pleasure to Mr. Campbell's report, which he thought was really a record of triumphant success. It was true that the expense had gone on increasing, but this arose, as had been stated, not from error or miscalculation, but from the growing necessities of the case. He was sorry to hear that so many members of Council had been behind hand in supporting the efforts of the Committee, but he trusted that what they had heard would stimulate all to renewed exertions. Having secured the other buildings for the University at Gilmorehill, they could not stop short of having a Common Hall. Let them not part with the one in which they were now met without knowing that it shall have a successor far more noble.

DR. WM. WEIR seconded the motion, which was cordially agreed to:

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